

COPY OF LETTER FROM MRS. VILLA HOWELL MARY O R. W. S. HOWELL  
(her name was really Havila) Handwriting Aquisite.

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White Plains, Ga.  
February 20, 1911

Mr. W. S. Howell  
Greenville, Georgia

Dear Willie:-

I was much pleased to hear from you; but am sorry not to be able to give you the desired information. Being, at the time your letter came, sick from a severe cold, hindered its speedy reply.

I have forgotten, if I ever knew, the name of my great-grandfather, but I will remember his wife's maiden name. Perhaps if you will write to Halifax County, North Carolina, you may be able to obtain the first, or "given" name of my great-grandfather Howell who married Miss Temperance Cavanaugh - pronounced as if spelled Cavaner. She was the mother of Joseph, Mathew, William, and McKenny Howell. My grandfather was the youngest of the four. My great-uncle Joseph Howell was the father of Nancy, Isaac, and Abram Howell. The daughter first married a man by the name of Clive Nelms; the second husband was named Mercer. Cousin Nancy used to visit us at rare intervals. She lived in South Georgia during Mr. Mercer's lifetime, - but during the life of Mr. Nelms lived at Crawfordville, Taliaferro County. Here she reared the Nelms children, Jim, Rebecca, Nettie, and Martha; the last was mother of Ettie Jernigan and Willis Alexander.

My uncle Joseph was for a long while deacon of the first Baptist church at White Plains. But he went from here to Alabama and died there. His son Isaac, lived in Alabama for a number of years, but moved to Texas and died in that State. Abram, the "black sheep" of the flock inherited his old bachelor uncle's (Mathew) property - a goodly portion too - and spent it in "riotous living." It went like "chaff before the wind."

My great-uncle William Howell, like his brothers, Joseph and McKenny, was a most worthy man. They were all possessed of property and good reputation. I am

not sure as to where Uncle William made his last home - nor do I remember ever having heard of his children.

I will try to learn if possible the name of McKenny, Joseph, Mother's and William Howell's father. The family Bible was given to brother Mc. after Mother's death. If his family still have the old book it may contain some record beyond that of my mother's and father's family. If I can learn anything from these sources I will write you hereafter.

And now about the Johnson side of the house. My grandfather, McKenny Howell, married Miss Mary Johnson, daughter of John Johnson and Elizabeth Ashefeldt - pronounced "Ashfield." And your great-grandmother Howell had sisters named Susan and Elizabeth. Susan married a man named Slaughter. She was my father's most beloved relative, and he sometimes visited her at Forsyth, Georgia. Elizabeth married a man named Cain. Her sons came a few times from Arkansas to visit the Johnson kin here. My grand-  
Parker  
mother also had another sister whose name I have forgotten. She married a Barker and they lived in Kentucky. The brothers were Samuel, William, Frederick, and John. The last named lived for many years, and died at Buckhead. He had a son also named John F., who lived at Madison.

I wish you might have known your great-grandmother Ewell. I admired her ~~strong~~ strong, brave character more than that of any woman I ever knew.

My grandfather having been almost an invalid for several years before his death, the management of plantation affairs rested almost entirely upon her shoulders; and well and faithfully she cared for every duty. She was also of great assistance to your own grandmother, Aunt Sarah, in taking care of her property, and that of the fatherless children, my cousins, Sam and Mary Jane.

Your father was Mathew Cavansugh Howell (he was given the name of his grandmother and uncle.)

Sorry I can't do better just now. No news of interest,

Yours truly, V.H.M.

Note by S.H.Hall -  
She was one generation wrong on the name of uncle Will's father, who was Samuel Armstrong Howell.